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U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Production and Marketing Admin.
Information Service
821 Market Street, Room 609
San Francisco 3, California

In cooperation with the
Federal-State Market News Service

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Feb. 7, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 4 -- Still standing at the top of the list among the week's best fruit buys are Northwestern Rome Beauty apples, California Newtown apples, grapefruit, oranges, and tangerines. Apples are a shade higher priced than last week, but there is no change on the citrus fruits.

Avocados, lemons, and pears continue as fairly good buys at practically the same prices.

In the vegetable kingdom, cauliflower has edged its way up to head the list of best buys. Broccoli runs a close second at slightly lower prices, while both onions and potatoes remain staunch supporters of the best buy class at unchanged prices.

Next in line are the bunched vegetables as a fair buy, along with peppers and tomatoes, considering the season of the year.

In the scarce and high department, we find artichokes and soft squash. Lettuce is still not too plentiful and high. The same is true of good quality celery, and hard squash is climbing up in price. Cabbage is higher than usual for this time of year, even though it has dropped a little since last week.

"R" before "S," says the alphabet. But when it comes to rhubarb, it's "S - ugar" before "R." However, housewives with a bit of sugar hidden from the family sugar bowl will find that there is some good quality hothouse rhubarb from Washington in the market now -- fairly high priced though.

In thinking about meat, we find that again this week the spotlight centers upon beef supplies, which are accumulating. Steer, heifer and cow beef carcasses are all $2.00 lower priced, with quality running mainly in the Good grade class. On veal, prices are about the same on quality falling in

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a rather narrow range of Commercial and Utility grades. In the case of lamb and mutton, supplies are fairly well balanced with the local demand, even though offerings of ewe mutton are very moderate and in little demand. The lamb is mostly of Good and Choice grades and practically unchanged in price. Fresh pork supplies are moving well on a fair clearance. Pork loins are up $2.00, while regular and skinned hams are $1.00 lower. No change on bacon.

Butter prices seem to be holding their own on the upturn started last week. Grade A(92Score) is up 5 cents at 69 cents per pound, while Grade B(90 Score) is still at 60 cents. One factor in the upward trend of prices if the recent reduction in retail prices, resulting in an improved consumer demand. Another is the blizzard weather of the Middle-West, which has resulted in transportation tie-ups and lighter receipts.

Egg prices are lower this week, too. Grade A Large eggs are 3 cents per dozen less at 50 to 50½ cents; Mediums are 2 cents lower at 48 to 48½ cents; and Grade B Large eggs are 1 cent cheaper; at 40 to 40½ cents. Grade A Small eggs remain at 44 to 45½ cents. A steadily increasing production, liberal supplies in retail outlets, and heavier supplies from nearby areas, plus lower prices on Central Western shipments, are reasons for the lower prices.

On poultry, we find that supplies of young chickens, especially large fryers and roasters, are larger than normal for this season of the year. But Leghorn fowl are in volume about as expected. Although consumption of poultry is being stimulated by lower prices, all stocks have not cleared. As a result, a considerable volume is moving into storage. On prices, we see that fryers weighing 3 to 4 pounds are 1 to 2 cents per pound lower than last week, with roasters of 4 pounds and more 2 cents less. All weights of dressed Leghorn fowl are up 1 cent per pound. Also higher are liveweight young hen and tom turkeys -- up 1 to 2 cents.

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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Feb. 14, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 11--Again this week at the top of the list of best fruit buys are grapefruit, oranges (a little higher priced), and tangerines, along with Northwestern Rome Beauty apples and California Newtown apples.

Avocados remain a fair buy, but lemons are up in price this week.

Cauliflower is still at the head of the list of best vegetable buys, with onions and potatoes taking second place.

Fair buys include broccoli, carrots, and tomatoes. Most of the tomatoes in the market now are from the Imperial Valley and are lower priced than usual for this season.

Cabbage and squash are a little lower, but celery is higher and lettuce continues in the high price bracket. Peppers are about 5 cents per pound higher.

For homemakers with some extra sugar, there is still a good supply of Washington hothouse rhubarb available at prices a little lower.

In contrast to not so many weeks ago -- when a steak was more or less a subject for dreaming about -- supplies of beef are now quite plentiful. In fact, supplies this past week have been heavy enough so that there has been some difficulty in finding suitable outlets for them. The retail trade is featuring price concessions in some instances. Quality is ranging mostly Commercial to Good, while, in keeping with last week's downward trend, prices are down $1.00 to $2.00. On veal, supplies are fairly ample and consist of Utility and Commercial grade. Supplies of

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lamb are making a daily clearance under a rather broad demand. But more liberal supplies of ewe mutton are in rather narrow demand. Pork supplies continue fairly liberal and in strong demand. Some Mid-West frozen pork is now available and ample supplies of smoked bacon and smoked hams are offered at prices $2.00 lower.

Butter prices are holding up with Grade B(90 Score) butter up 5 cents per pound at 65¢. Grade A(92 Score) remains at 69¢. Consumer demand is less active at these higher prices, but even so, San Francisco retail sales for the week ending Feb. 1 were up 12.3% and were 91.9% above last year. At the same time, creamery butter production for the country as a whole is roughly 42% greater than last year.

On eggs, we find that all sizes of Grade A eggs are 8 to 9 cents per dozen lower than last week and that Grade B eggs are down 3 cents. Reasons for this price drop include larger supplies of fresh eggs from nearby areas but no stimulation in demand.

All classes of poultry are plentiful now, especially young chickens and turkeys. The only price change from a week ago is on dressed young hen turkeys, which are 1 to 2¢ per pound higher at 42 to 43¢ per pound. Young toms are 8 cents lower than the hens at 34 to 35¢.

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APR 28 1947
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Feb. 21, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 18 -- The week's best fruit buys include Rome Beauty apples, California Newtown apples, grapefruit, and tangerines.

Oranges have lost their place among the best buys because of higher prices. Only the small oranges are a fair buy, along with lemons and avocados.

Among the vegetables, good buys include broccoli in plentiful supply and relatively low priced, cauliflower, onions unchanged to a little lower priced, and potatoes at the same prices.

Carrots are a fair buy, as well as lower priced peas, more plentiful spinach, and tomatoes at declining prices. Rhubarb is selling at a rather low price and is a fair buy, providing there is some sugar available.

The first green asparagus of the season has arrived, but it is high priced and decidedly in the luxury class.

Artichokes are becoming more plentiful and the price is going down, while bunched vegetables are very little changed and celery is about the same as for last week. The price of lettuce is down a little, and squashes are a shade lower, but peppers are still holding their higher prices.

In looking over the meat supply for this week, we find that contrary to the last couple of weeks supplies of beef are more nearly in balance with the demand. A curtailment in local slaughter has made for less offerings, while at the same time, demand has been stimulated by colder, rainy weather. Quality is ranging from Commercial to Good with less Choice grade. Prices are about the same. Offerings of Commercial to Good veal are enjoying a daily clearance. In general, the quality of lamb is of Commercial to Choice

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grade and in good demand, but there is little demand for mutton. Despite higher prices on live hogs, fresh dressed pork is very little changed. All pork products are in good demand. Spareribs are in light supply and skinned hams are selling $2.00 above the regular hams.

Moderate supplies of butter are unchanged in price this week. Grade A (92 Score) remains at 69¢ per pound and Grade B (90 Score) at 65¢. Demand is fairly good but not as good as it has been.

Plentiful supplies of eggs are lower priced in the San Francisco market than in any other West Coast market. Since a week ago the only price change in on Grade "A" Small eggs, which are now selling at 35 to 35½ cents per dozen. Grade "A" Large eggs are quoted at 41 to 42½ cents per dozen, Mediums at 39 to 40½¢, and Grade "B" Large at 3 7 to 38½¢.

Liberal supplies of poultry are very little changed in price from last week, but roasters are up 1 cent per pound on live weight. Turkeys are abundant now -- especially the heavy toms, which are running 4 to 6 cents lower in price this year than last. If Mrs. Homemaker finds that a tom turkey is too large for her family needs, perhaps she could form a little cooperative with Mrs. Homemaker next door, with each one taking half the bird. This may prove a solution for the Washington Birthday holiday dinner. There are plenty of hen turkeys available, too, but they are 2 to 3 cents per pound higher this week at 32 to 33 cents per pound alive and 44 to 46 cents per pound dressed, while toms are about unchanged at 24 to 25 cents alive and 35 to 36 cents dressed.

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APR 28 '47
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WHAT'S NEWS IN THE MARKETS?

(USDA Food Bulletin for the week ending Feb. 28, 1947)

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 25 -- Best buys are small oranges (slightly lower priced), grapefruit, Rome Beauty apples, and California Newtown apples.

Avocados are unchanged in price and a fair buy, along with lower priced lemons.

Broccoli in plentiful supply and low-priced heads the best vegetable buys, with cauliflower slightly higher, onions a shade lower, and potatoes a shade higher priced completing the list.

Asparagus is coming in in heavy supply for this early in the season and the price is about 45 cents per pound lower this week to make it a fair buy. Others in the fair buy class include bunched vegetables, celery, peas at a lower price, rhubarb, and spinach.

Artichokes are lower priced, while squash is high and tomatoes much higher than last week.

Less meat at higher prices sums up the story this week. With the past week's beef slaughter cut down by about 10 per cent, coolers have taken on the appearance of pre-rationing days when all supplies were cleared. Quality is ranging Commercial to Good with Good beef rounds $1.00 higher. Supplies of mostly Commercial and Good veal are enjoying daily clearance at prices up $2.00 to $3.00. In general, Commercial to Choice grades constitute the lamb in the market. Demand is fairly broad. Ewe mutton is more plentiful but has only moderate demand. Pork supplies are lower than for the past three weeks, while practically all cuts are selling $2.00 to

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$6.00 higher in keeping with the upturn in prices on live hogs. There are ample supplies of smoked ham and bacon now.

The trend of the butter market is much like that of the meat market. Supplies are lighter and prices are higher. Grade A (92 Score) is up 3 cents per pound at 72 cents and Grade B (90 Score) is 6 cents higher at 71 cents per pound. Demand is less at these prices. As a result, sales of margarine are on the increase. For the week ending Feb. 15, retail sales of butter in San Francisco were 3.3% fewer than for the previous week. But despite this, they were still 69% above last year.

All grades of eggs are 1 to 2 cents per dozen higher this week. Supplies are lighter because of a reduction in receipts coming in from Central Western areas. And getting down to the bottom of things, we find that the reduction in receipts was made because of unfavorable prices here on the West Coast. Demand continues fairly good.

Although there is plenty of poultry to go around, receipts have tapered off some. Broilers, fryers and roasters are in good demand, but Leghorn hens are little wanted. Prices are up 1 cent per pound on both live and dressed broilers and light fryers and 1 to 2 cents per pound higher on heavy fryers and roasters. Turkeys continue a good buy at unchanged prices, while both live and dressed squabs are selling 10 cents per pound lower.

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